THE

CXIXth PSALM

PARAPHRAS'D

In ENGLISH VERSE.

In verse their Oracles the Gods did give,
In verse we were instructed how to live.

THE

SIXTH PSALM

OF

DAVID,

IN ENGLISH VERSE.

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O. T.
Psalms.
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THE CXIXth PSALM PARAPHRAS'D In ENGLISH VERSE.

---- Dictæ per Carmina Sortes,
Et Vitæ monstrata Via est. ----

HOR. *de* Arte Poët.

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INTRODUCTION

TO THE

Following PSALM.

THIS *Excellent* Pſalm *is a Methodical and Compendious* Syſtem, *or* Summary, *of true* Religion; *briefly repreſenting the ſeveral* Stages *of Man's Life, in his* Way *to Happineſs; and ſhewing how far that Happineſs is (by virtue of the Divine* Covenant *and* Promiſe) *to be* Attain'd *in this Life, and how far it is only to be* Hop'd for. *The Beginning, the Progreſs, and the Perfection of Human Life are herein clearly and fully diſplay'd; together with the Variety of incidental Circumſtances, and*

continual Oppoſition, which a Good Man muſt evermore expect to encounter with in his Spiritual Conflict.

To illuſtrate which the better, and ſet it in the clearer and more uniform Light, the Subject *the* Royal Pſalmiſt *pitches upon, is, The* Divine Law; *and This He treats of, in the following very Peculiar, but Artificial, Method.*

1. *He divides the* Whole Pſalm (*according to the Number of* Letters *in the* Hebrew Alphabet) *into* XXII Sections.

2. *He makes each of thoſe* Sections *preciſely to conſiſt of* VIII Verſes, *neither more nor leſs.*

3. *He makes each* Verſe *begin with that Letter of the* Alphabet, *which denominates each Particular* Section.

Laſtly, *He confines Himſelf ſo ſtrictly to the* Subject *of the Whole, that He mentions it in every* Verſe (*excepting* One *or* Two *only, in which it ſeems to be implied*) *under different Denominations* (Eleven *in all*) *which, for the moſt part at leaſt, He ſeems to uſe promiſcuouſly, and perhaps without any other particular Deſign, than as it ſuited beſt with his Numbers.*

I have

I have follow'd Him in neither of theſe Particulars, but the First *only. No Tranſlator, I think, ever follow'd Him as to the* Third, *by having any regard to the* Initial Letters *of each* Verſe; *and* Buchanan *only as to the* Second; *By which means (notwithſtanding the elegant Turn He gives every thing) he has not only too much cramp'd and confin'd his Paraphraſe, but is forc'd ſometimes to leave out entire Paſſages, in order to keep cloſe to his Rule.*

There are Three Things that ſeem to render the Reading of this Pſalm ſo flat and inſipid in moſt of our Tranſlations, viz. *The frequent* Repetitions, *not only of the word* Law *(with it's Synonymous Terms) but divers other Expreſſions; The ſeeming want of* Method *and* Connection; *And the* Obſcurity *and* Ambiguity *of many of the Phraſes. It was thought therefore not inconſiſtent with the Liberty of a* Paraphraſe, *to avoid the* Repetitions, *as much as might be; to diſcover a probable* Connection; *and to render the Obſcurer* Phraſes *more intelligible.*

In

In doing which, I had recourſe to my Lord Roſcommon's *Rule,*

Search ev'ry Comment that your Care can find,
Some here, ſome there, may hit the Poet's Mind.

And endeavour'd, as much as poſſible, to be clear in the Expreſſion; remembring what the ſame Noble Author *adds,*

He only proves he underſtands a Text,
Whoſe Expoſition leaves it unperplext.

And again,

The Genuine Senſe, intelligibly told,
Shews a Tranſlator both diſcreet and bold.

If, from the Obſervance of theſe Rules, the following Paraphraſe *has any thing in it to recommend it; it is humbly preſum'd, that it will not fail of a favourable Reception, on account of the grateful Variety, and Divine Excellency of the Matter contain'd in it.*

The ARGUMENT of the CXIXth PSALM.

I.

INTRODUCTION. *Wherein is deſcrib'd, the* Bleſſedneſs *of walking by the* Divine Law; *A* Prayer *for obtaining that Bleſſedneſs; and a Reſolution of* Gratitude *for it, by the Divine Aſſiſtance, when obtain'd.*

II.

THE *Neceſſity of This* Law, *more eſpecially for the Conduct of Youth. The* Pſalmiſt *expreſſes his early Application to it; ſhews the Value He ſet upon it, and the Delight and Comfort it brought to him; and therefore Prays for a farther Proficiency in it.*

III.

HE *invocates the* Divine Aſſiſtance, *to remove thoſe* Impediments *which may hinder*

Him in the Proſecution and Obſervance of this Law; *taken from the ſuppos'd* Brevity *and* Miſery *of* Human Life; *the* Myſteries *of the* Divine Law; *His own* Natural Infirmities; *and the* Power *and* Malice *of his enrag'd* Enemies.

IV.

HE *prays for the* Support *and* Comfort *of* GOD'S Word, *under the Extremity of his* Afflictions; *and that Theſe may not at any time tempt Him to recede from, or act contrary to, his* Duty, *but be a Means of his better Obſervance of it.*

V.

HE *Reſolves, that, being throughly inſtructed in the* Divine Law, *He will* evermore *gratefully obſerve it, with his* whole Heart, *and in* All *its* Parts: *And Prays that no* Temptations, *whether* Internal *or* External, *may divert Him from* Fear *of* Tranſgreſſing, *and* Love *of* Keeping *it.*

VI. *HE*

VI.

He *expreſſes his ardent Deſires of the* Mercies *Reveal'd in* God's Word; *And ſhews the* Influence *his* Truſt *in Them will have, both upon his* Enemies, *in ſtopping their Mouths againſt Him, and upon* Himſelf, *in Quickening His* Obedience.

VII.

He *declares, that* God's Covenant, *reveal'd in His* Word, *is the only ſure Foundation of all His* Hopes; *And that no Oppoſition of his inſulting Enemies can ever ſhake this* Hope; *but that it adminiſters the trueſt* Comfort *to Him in all Extremities.*

VIII.

He *ſhews, wherein this* Covenant *conſiſts, and in what* manner *He obſerves it;* viz. *by* Prayer, Meditation, Repentance, Amendment, Perſeverance, Divine Conſolation, Holy Converſation, *and an humble* Reliance *on the Bountiful Hand of* Providence.

IX.

HE *Felicitates Himſelf upon being admitted to this* Covenant; *And ſhews, That* True Happineſs *conſiſts in a* Rational Obedience, *and not in thoſe Things which miſtaken Men generally place it in; That* Afflictions *are no Impediments to* Real Felicity; *but, being* Graciouſly intended *by* GOD, *and* Inſtructive *of the* Trueſt Knowledge, *are Infinitely preferable to all* Worldly Proſperity *whatſoever.*

X.

HE *deſires of* GOD, *to give Him ſuch a perfect* Knowledge *of his* Laws, *and to endue Him with ſuch* Innocence *of* Life, *as may render Him an* Example *of Virtue to* Others; *and enable Him chearfully to acquieſce under* All, *even the* ſevereſt, Diſpenſations *of* Divine Providence.

XI.

HE *expreſſes the* Intenſeneſs *of his* Hope *in* GOD's Word; *How much it is* exercis'd; *And*

And yet what a ſeaſonable Relief *it always affords Him.*

XII.

He *ſhews the invariable* Truth *and* Permanency *of the* Divine Law, *from the whole* Courſe *and* Frame *of* Nature; *expreſſes his* Gratitude *for it, and* Deſires *to be for* ever Guided *and* Influenc'd *by it, on account of it's* Abſolute *and* Unlimited Perfection.

XIII.

He *deſcribes the* Superior *and* Incomparable Wiſdom *of* diligently Studying, *and* conſtantly Walking *by the* Divine Law; *and the* exceeding Benefit *and* Pleaſure *that ariſes from thence.*

XIV.

He *ſhews, That the* Word of God *is an excellent* Guide; *and that the* Light *of it, is neceſſary to* conduct *Him thro' the* Dark *and* Intricate Path *of* Life. *And, hereupon, He renews his* Vows; *and* Reſolves *to be* Guided *by it, thro' all* Dangers *and* Difficulties, *even to the* laſt Moment *of his* Life.

XV. He

XV.

HE *oppoſes the* Divine Law *to* Human Devices; *and expreſſes his firm* Reliance *upon* That Only; *and ſhews the different* End *of the* Obſervers *and* Tranſgreſſors *of it.*

XVI.

HE *prays for* Divine Grace *and* Protection; *and for* Knowledge *of the* Truth; *and profeſſes his* Zeal *for it, and* ſtedfaſt Adherence *to it.*

XVII.

HE *deſcribes the* Wonderful Beauty, piercing Quickneſs, irreſiſtible Power *and* Efficacy *of the* Word of GOD; *and prays for it's* Direction *and* Illumination.

XVIII.

HE *aſſerts the* Equity, Veracity, Purity, *and* Eternity *of the* Divine Law; *upon which He grounds his* ardent Zeal *for it,* Delight *in it's Study, and* Deſires *of a more* perfect Underſtanding *of it.*

XIX. HE

XIX.

He *expreſſes the* Earneſtneſs *of his* Prayers, Vows, *and* Vigilance; *founded upon a firm* Truſt *in* God's Mercies, *and* experienc'd Fidelity *to his* Word *and* Promiſes.

XX.

He *implores the* Divine Aſſiſtance, *and* Deliverance *from his* Enemies, *on account of his* long-tried *and* approv'd Virtue, *in* Reſiſting *and* Oppoſing *Them, and* zealouſly contending *for the* Truth.

XXI.

He *deſcribes the utmoſt* Pitch *and* Perfection *of* Human Obedience; *and the Bleſſed and Ample* Rewards *that infallibly attend the* Performers *of it; in which* Happy Number *He ranks Himſelf.*

XXII.

He *concludes the Whole, with Two humble* Petitions; *the One, for* Knowledge *of the* Divine

Divine Law, *the Other, for* Attainment *of it's* Promiſes; *and declares, that He will never be wanting to expreſs his* Gratitude *to* GOD *for theſe Mercies, in* Songs *of* Praiſe *and* Thankſgiving; *Implores the* Divine Protection *and* Comfort; *Deſires to* Live *for no other* End, *but the* Glory *of* GOD; *and, finally, commends Himſelf to His* Providence.

THE CXIXth PSALM PARAPHRAS'D.

I.

WHAT num'rous Bleſſings does GOD's Law beſtow
On Thoſe who by it's Pure Directions go!
Who all their Actions by His Precepts ſquare,
And ſeek His Favour with Attentive Care!
Theſe, no Temptations blindly cauſe to err;
In Virtue's Sacred Paths They perſevere:

'Twas GOD Commanded, therefore They Obey,
Pleas'd to perform His Will, without Delay.
O! may I be like Them! and ſtill purſue
The Way This Law perſuades me to be True!
So ſhall no Conſcious Fears diſturb my Breaſt;
Shame, nor Confuſion, interrupt my Reſt:
But, on This awful Law my Thoughts intent,
All anxious Cares and Troubles ſhall prevent.
When once This Happy State I have attain'd,
And ſuch True Knowledge of GOD's Judgments gain'd;
In loftieſt Strains my tuneful Voice I'll raiſe,
With undiſſembl'd Joy to ſing His Praiſe;
His Precepts I'll Obſerve, to Him I'll cleave:
O! go not far! nor Me Thy Servant leave!

II.

WHAT Law, but This, Youth's fault'ring Steps can ſtay?
Or, thro' the World's Pollutions, clear His Way?
Thy Favour, firſt, I ſought with Early Care,
(O! let Me never from Thy Precepts err!)
And in my Tender Breaſt Thy Word did hide,
To guard my Innocence, my Steps to guide.

Thou,

THOU, from whoſe Bounteous Hand All Bleſſings flow,
On Me the Knowledge of Thy Laws beſtow!
Which, not confin'd within my ſilent Breaſt,
My Lips in flowing Numbers have expreſt;
While ſuch unknown Delights reviv'd my Heart,
As the vain World's Poſſeſſions can't impart.
O! may I Think, Talk of, and ſtill Admire
This wond'rous Law, and nothing elſe Deſire!
On This entirely my Affections place,
Which late Oblivion never ſhall deface!

III.

LONG Life, and Safety, to my Wiſhes give;
That I, to execute Thy Will, may live!
Unveil my Soul, with Native Darkneſs blind,
That I Thy Law's myſterious Paths may find!
And, whilſt an Exile here on Earth I roam,
Shew Me the Way to my Celeſtial Home!
My frail and feeble Nature faints and tires,
And ſcarce ſuſtains Thy Law's intenſe Deſires.
O! THOU, who doſt Thy Sov'reign Pow'r diſplay,
Rebellious Pride accurſed to diſmay,

Protect me from the Proud Rebukes of Thoſe,
Who would my Innocence to Shame expoſe!
Then, tho' Revil'd by Mighty Men and Great,
Arraign'd and Cenſur'd, from their Awful Seat;
Thy Sacred Laws my ſure Defence I'll make,
Their Comfort only, and Their Counſel take.

IV.

WITH Pond'rous Grief my Burthen'd Soul oppreſt,
Lies grov'ling in the Duſt, depriv'd of Reſt:
O! let the Comforts of Thy Word ſuſtain
My drooping Spirits, and aſſwage my Pain!
Oft has my lab'ring Breaſt it's Woes declar'd;
As often has Thine Ear propitious Hear'd:
O! give Me Knowledge of Thy Will t'enjoy!
That Only ſhall my ſorr'wing Hours employ.
Like melting Wax, my Heart diſſolves with Grief,
And, only from Thy Word, expects Relief.
Be far Apoſtatizing Fraud and Lies!
O! grant Me conſtantly Thy Laws to prize!
And, ſince Thy Truth I've choſen for my Guide,
O'er all my Words and Actions to preſide;

And to Thy Precepts hitherto ſtuck faſt;
O! ſave Me from a foul Relapſe at laſt!
So ſhall my Humbl'd Soul, with freſh Supplies
Of Strength, to Run the Race before Me, Riſe.

V.

LEARN'D in Thy Law, by Thy Inſtruction, grown,
My Grateful Duty ſhall be Conſtant ſhown:
My Mind, with ſuch Celeſtial Wiſdom fraught,
Shall pure Obedience yield in ev'ry Thought:
My Steps, conducted by a Guide ſo True,
Shall none but Virtue's pleaſant Paths purſue.
O! let not Worldly Cares my Thoughts withdraw,
And alienate my Study from Thy Law!
Let no Vain Objects glitt'ring Charms diſplay,
And thro' my dazzl'd Eyes my Heart betray!
Great are my Hopes which on Thy Word depend,
O! let my Fears be equal to Offend!
Avert th'impending Terrors which I dread!
And let not Shame my Guiltleſs Breaſt invade!
But view the Love to Thy Commands I bear,
And make my Duty more and more my Care!

VI.

MAY Thoſe bright Beams of Mercy, which I ſee
Shine thro' Thy Word, their Influence ſhed on Me!
With This Reply I'll ſilence all my Foes,
On Thy ſure Mercies I my Truſt repoſe:
(O! may I never This ſure Truſt forſake,
Nor e'er be wanting This Reply to make!)
So ſhall my Life, ſuperior to Their Scorn,
Good Deeds and laſting Piety adorn:
So ſhall my Feet, from ſinful Bondage freed,
Enlarg'd, in Virtue's ſpacious Paths proceed.
To Kings I'll publiſh Thy Supremer Laws,
With Zeal becoming ſuch a Glorious Cauſe:
Nor ſhall Their Pomp and State my Envy move,
While This delightful Object claims my Love:
To This, with Hands devoutly rais'd, I'll pay
My Vows, and This with ſilent Thoughts obey.

VII.

THE Sacred COVENANT Thy Word diſplays,
Which to my Soul ſuch pleaſing Hope conveys,

O! ſtill

O! ſtill remember! For 'tis This Alone
Can eaſe the Preſſures under which I groan.
Let ſcornful Men deride my Hopes as vain,
Their Scorn I can reject, with like Diſdain.
For well I know, by long Experience taught,
The wond'rous Works Thy Pow'rful Arm has wrought,
For Such, who ne'er their Truſt in Thee forſook;
And hence my Soul in Troubles Comfort took.
For Thoſe I tremble, Who tranſgreſs Thy Law,
Whom Promiſes can't win, nor Threatnings awe.
Happier am I, who, in an Exil'd State,
Can, in melodious Songs, Thy Laws repeat;
Or, 'midſt the ſilent Horrors of the Night,
Reflect thereon with Tranſports of Delight.
Such inward Peace of Mind, and ſweet Repoſe,
From lively Hope, and true Obedience flows!

VIII.

WHILST THOU vouchſaf'ſt, in Mercy, to be Mine,
With Plighted Vows I've Promis'd to be Thine;
Thine, in all due Obſervance of Thy Will,
Whatever THOU Commandeſt, to Fulfil.

On this Preſumption, I prefer my Pray'r,
And humbly at the Throne of Grace appear,
That THOU'lt vouchſafe Propitiouſly to Hear.
Oft as my Thoughts, reflecting on my Ways,
Mark where the fatal Path of Error lies;
My Wand'ring Feet with quicken'd Speed return,
And from paſt Errors new Obedience learn.
With banded Foes and hidden Wiles beſet,
My Vow'd Obedience do I ne'er forget.
At Midnight, out of Sleep I gladly riſe,
To ſing how highly I Thy Statutes prize;
And, in the Day, converſe with None but Thoſe
Who, by That perfect Rule, their Lives compoſe.
Whilſt with Thy Gifts the gay Creation's crown'd,
Give Me, with Knowledge of Thy Laws, t'abound!

IX.

WHEN Promis'd Bleſſings from Truth's Fountain flow,
Their Sweets I ſenſibly Perceive and Know.
I find, Obedience is the Way to Bliſs;
Which, if improv'd by Knowledge, it can't miſs:
Give Me, leſt my Obedience ſhould be Blind,
A Senſe of Duty, with True Judgment join'd!

Afflicti-

Afflictions I've experienc'd to be Good;
Correcting Errors, elſe not underſtood:
THOU art ſtill Gracious! Teach me to reſign,
And evermore ſubmit My Will to Thine!
The Proud and Proſp'rous my Diſtreſs deſpiſe,
And rail upon Me with opprobrious Lies:
Yet will I my Integrity maintain,
And prove their Slanders undeſerv'd and vain.
Their proſp'rous Pride to pamper'd Dulneſs tends,
Nor yields the Pleaſure which Thy Laws commends.
'Tis good for Me, that, by Afflictions train'd,
To Know Thy righteous Judgments I've attain'd;
Which Knowledge I prefer, a Thouſand-fold,
To Mines of Wealth, and Heaps of maſſy Gold.

X.

O! MAY Thy Hand, which firſt my Form expreſt,
Engrave Thy Laws and Statutes on my Breaſt!
Good Men will triumph, when Thoſe Laws they ſee,
So fairly Copied and Tranſcrib'd in Me.
Then ſhall my Soul, tho' humbl'd to the Duſt,
Thy Juſtice own, and in Thy Goodneſs truſt;

Thy Truth ſhall comfort and ſupport my Soul,
Until Thy Mercy pleaſe to make Me whole.
Confound my Foes, who all their Guile employ,
My Virtue to ſupplant, my Life deſtroy!
And may ſuch Friends to Me reſort, who fear
Thy Sacred Name, and make Thy Laws their Care!
In it's own Innocence my Heart ſecure,
Shall all the Shocks of Adverſe Fate endure.

XI.

HOPE long-delay'd my ſick'ning Soul endures;
But the ſame Hope, which caus'd that Sickneſs, cures.
With long Expectance tir'd, my Eyes grow dim;
And all my Cry is - - - When will be the Time?
My wither'd Looks a diſmal Scene diſcloſe;
My Skin a wrinkl'd Leathern Veſſel ſhows:
Yet ſtill my Breaſt a riſing Tranſport feels,
From the true Comforts which Thy Word reveals.
How many Days ſhall yet my Reſt annoy?
How many ſhall my Proſp'rous Foes enjoy?
Their treach'rous Pride I can no longer bear;
My Paths they undermine, my Steps enſnare;

Thy righteous Laws unjuſtly They oppoſe:
O! ſave Me from ſuch falſe Perfidious Foes!
I'd quite been loſt, almoſt to Death purſu'd,
Had not Thy Word my fleeting Life renew'd:
O! may I once more Thy Salvation ſee!
My Life Reſtor'd I'll conſecrate to Thee.

XII.

FROM THEE the Heav'ns their conſtant Motions draw;
THOU Gav'ſt the Word, They took th'eſtabliſh'd Law.
No leſs the Earth, revolving Times and Years,
Thy Truth's Immutability declares:
Obedient to Thy Sov'reign Order ſtands
The wide Creation, waiting Thy Commands.
Such Thoughts my quite-deſponding Soul ſuſtain;
Thy Laws as fix'd as Heav'n or Earth remain:
Of theſe Thy Laws my Grateful Memory
Fix'd and Eternal, as Themſelves, ſhall be.
O! may I ever Thy Protection ſhare,
As I am Thine, and to Thy Laws adhere!
My Foes, who ſeek my Ruin, I'll defy,
And on Thy never-failing Truth rely:

Whilſt all Things to their deſtin'd Period tend,
Thy Law Alone knows neither Bounds nor End.

XIII.

WITH Love unfeign'd, and raviſhing Delight,
I make Thy Laws my Study Day and Night.
This Wiſdom ſets Me far above my Foes,
And all their Boaſted Politicks out-does:
Nor Human Learning may with This compare,
Labour'd and Poliſh'd by the Tutor's Care:
Ev'n Hoary Heads, crown'd with Experienc'd Years,
Muſt bow to This, as far exceeding Their's.
Keeping This Law perpetu'lly in View,
I all Erroneous Ways of Vice eſchew:
And, by my faithful Guide ſecurely led,
None other Paths, than Thoſe preſcrib'd Me, tread.
Sweet is the Savour which Thy Words beſtow!
Sweeter than Honey to the Tongue they flow!
The trueſt Wiſdom I retain thereby;
And Vicious Courſes with Averſion flye.

XIV.

LIKE a Clear Lamp, Thy Word divinely Bright,
Darts on my Paths refulgent Beams of Light,
And guides my Steps thro' diſmal Shades of Night.
Aſſiſted thus my Solemn Vow t'obſerve,
I'll never from Thy Sacred Precepts ſwerve;
Tho' plung'd in Woes, and by Afflictions try'd:
O! be Thy Word my Comfort, and my Guide!
Accept th' Oblation of theſe Vows I pay!
And make me to diſcern Thy Righteous Way!
My Soul on Brink of Death, in dubious State,
No Terrors cauſe Thy Precepts to forget.
When, clos'd in Toils, my Life was in Deſpair,
To Diſobey Thy Word was all my Fear.
That laſting Good, which more than Life I prize,
Whence Trueſt Comforts in Diſtreſs ariſe,
I'll ever keep, ſo graciouſly Reveal'd,
And, with my lateſt Breath, Obedience yield.

XV.

MEN's baſe Devices as I diſapprove,
The purer Dictates of Thy Laws I love.

For

For THOU'rt my Refuge; and Thy Word, I find,
Th' Alone Support and Comfort of my Mind.
Hence, Ye Tranſgreſſors! and be far away!
Your Counſels I'll avoid, my GOD's obey.
O! let Thy Word my dubious Life ſuſtain,
Improve my Hopes, and ſhew they were not Vain!
Supported thus, no Dangers I ſhall fear;
But unmoleſted to Thy Laws adhere.
Like Mire and Dirt, that's trampl'd on the Ground,
In their Own Craft, THOU do'ſt Thy Foes confound;
And, like vile Droſs, do'ſt Impious Men remove:
Therefore Thy pure and perfect Laws I love;
My ſhiv'ring Limbs with anxious Horror quake,
And, fearful of Thy juſt Diſpleaſure, ſhake.

XVI.

WHILE Truth and Juſtice all my Actions ſway,
To Fraud and Wrong, O! give Me not a Prey!
But let my Love of Truth Thy Aid engage,
To guard Me from my Foes' impetuous Rage!
Long have my wearied Eye-balls faintly roll'd,
Expecting Thy Salvation to behold:

O! let

O! let Thy Servant Grace and Mercy find!
Aſſert my Freedom, and inform my Mind!
Teach Me to Know my Heav'nly Maſter's Will,
And all my Duty faithfully fulfil!
'Tis time to riſe in Truth's forſaken Cauſe,
When Men would vacate Thy Eternal Laws;
Which, tho' deſerted, yet in my Eſteem,
Surpaſs the pureſt Gold, and brighteſt Gem:
By Them my ſteady Conduct I direct,
And, all that interferes therewith, reject.

XVII.

THY wond'rous Word with Tranſport I ſurvey!
It both Obliges, and Invites, t' Obey.
It's op'ning Light ſoon makes it ſelf confeſt;
And ſtamps Conviction on the weakeſt Breaſt.
Gaſping for Breath the Vital Air I draw;
So longs my Soul for Thy delightful Law:
O! ſuch Returns of Bounteous Mercy ſhow,
As Thoſe, who love THEE, by Experience know!
Rul'd by Thy Word make THOU my Footſteps ſure,
From fatal Sin's Tyrannick Sway ſecure!

From

From cruel Men's Oppreſſions ſet Me free,
That my Whole Self I may devote to THEE!
O! let Thy Face upon Thy Servant ſhine!
Irradiating my Soul with Light Divine!
For Floods of Tears fall from my weeping Eyes,
To ſee how impious Men Thy Laws deſpiſe.

XVIII.

THY Righteouſneſs, O! GOD, proclaims Thy Praiſe!
Juſt in Thy ſelf, and Juſt in all Thy Ways!
In equal Balance all Thy Laws are weigh'd;
On Truth's Foundation ev'ry Promiſe laid.
With burning Zeal my Breaſt indignant glows,
Becauſe Theſe Laws are ſlighted by my Foes:
Which Pure, as Gold ſev'n times refin'd, appear;
And therefore to my raviſh'd Soul are dear.
Me, tho' deſpis'd, and deſtitute of Aid,
Oblivion of Thy Laws ſhall ne'er upbraid.
For-ever fix'd Thy Righteouſneſs remains;
Thy Sacred Word eternal Truth ſuſtains.
My Heart, with melting Grief and Anguiſh ſeiz'd,
Yet with it's charming Contemplation's pleas'd:

Of

Of Thy eternal Truth and Juſtice, Give
Me Underſtanding! For by That I live!

XIX.

MY contrite Heart Heav'n importunes with Cries,
And Vows of Duty and Obedience ſighs;
O! Hear! and grant the Aid which I implore!
I'll never deviate from Thy Precepts more!
My early Pray'rs th'approaching Dawn prevent;
My Hopes are on Thy Promiſes intent:
More Vigilant than Morning-Watch, I wake,
And in Thy Word's Peruſal Pleaſure take.
With wonted Favour to my Pray'rs give ear!
And eaſe the Burthen of the Woes I bear!
Malicious Men are ſtill ſurrounding Me,
Whom Diſobedience has eſtrang'd from THEE;
O! do THOU, faithful to Thy Word, appear!
And, always preſent to my Aid, draw near!
My firm Perſuaſion this has ever been,
That in Thy Word Thy Faithfulneſs is ſeen.

XX.

LOOK down Propitious on my low Eſtate!
Since, prov'd thereby, Thy Laws I ne'er forget:
Be THOU my Advocate my Cauſe to plead!
Ariſe, and mercifully ſave with Speed!
While impious Men forſake Thy righteous Way,
And from their Duty, and their Safety, ſtray;
I'll to Thine open Arms of Mercy flie;
By Them embrace Me when Affliction's nigh!
In formidable Troops my Foes combine,
To make Me from Thy ſacred Paths decline;
In vain, - - - They only move my Grief, to ſee
Their bold Defiance, and Contempt of THEE.
O! let the Zeal, with which Thy Laws I love,
Thy tender Pity and Compaſſion move!
Begun in Truth it ſelf, Thy Word deſcends
Thro' boundleſs Tracts of Time; nor ever Ends.

XXI.

MY Virtue Tyrants, unprovok'd, aſſail;
Yet can't Their Frowns, o'er Fears of THEE, prevail.

With

With truer Joy Thy Word rewards my Toil,
Than glads the Victor, flush'd with hoſtile Spoil.
With what Abhorrence all Falſe Ways I leave,
With ſuch Affection to the True I cleave.
Each Day is Witneſs of the Praiſe I ſhow,
In frequent Hymns, which to Thy Laws I owe.
Bleſs'd Souls! whoſe Happineſs hereon is fix'd!
Their Peace is undiſturb'd, their Joys unmix'd!
Inroll'd with Them, Thy Precepts I've Obey'd,
And all my Hopes on this Foundation laid:
To Theſe my Soul hath ſtedfaſtly adher'd,
And Theſe, before all other things, preferr'd:
Thy Paths I've follow'd, as the Way to Bliſs;
For THOU obſerveſt, where I tread amiſs.

XXII.

O! THAT my Cries may reach Thy Heav'nly Throne!
And Knowledge of Thy Laws my Labours crown!
To THEE, my Supplications find Acceſs!
And Me Thy Word, with Promis'd Safety, bleſs!
My grateful Lips ſhall, in their Praiſe, o'erflow,
Inſtructed thus Thy ſacred Laws to Know:

My

My Tongue ſhall ſing, and, in immortal Lays,
Thy Word's eternal Truth and Juſtice praiſe.
O! by th'Obedience to Thy Laws I've paid,
Lend Me Thy helping Hand, and needful Aid!
None other Aid, but This, my Soul requires;
None other Comfort, in Diſtreſs, deſires.
O! may I Live, to celebrate Thy Praiſe!
And gain Experience of Thy righteous Ways!
Tho', like a wand'ring Sheep, I've gone aſtray,
To rav'ning Wolves expos'd a helpleſs Prey:
Yet, not Unmindful of Thy Laws, O! ſpare,
And guide Me ſafely with a Shepherd's Care!

FINIS.